



WILDLIFE AND THEIR HABITATS

Programme Two

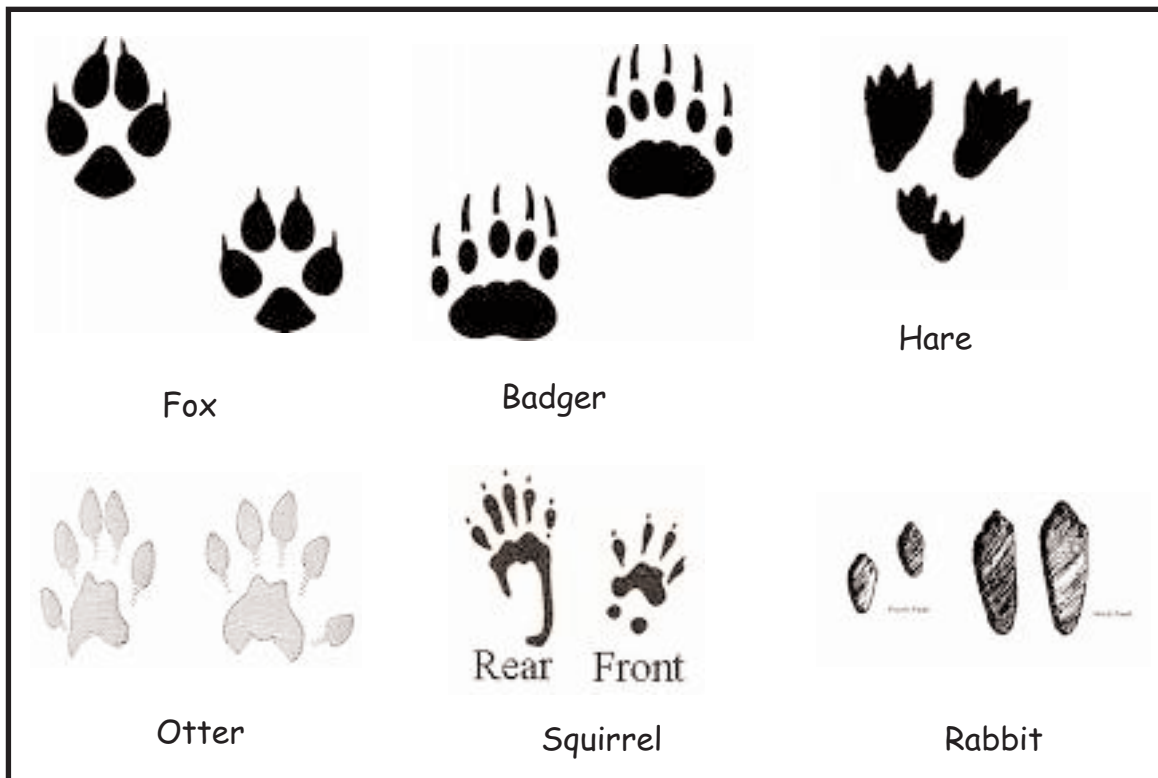
ACTIVITY WORKSHEET 2

STUDENT NAME: _____

Animals Tracks and Signs

While visiting your park, there are many clues to look out for that show that animals have been near, even if you have not seen them. They leave evidence behind them.

Footprints: When the ground is soft or muddy, animals often leave their foot impression. You can tell what animal it is by the shape of their footprint.



Droppings: An animal's droppings can tell you what an animal eats but where you find it can tell which animal it is. An otter's droppings can be found on rocks in the river. These are called spraints and they have distinctive smells. You can see the fish bones and beetle wing cases in otter spraints. Look at them with a white background as it shows up better.

Signs of Feeding: We can often see where an animal has been eating by feathers or bones that are left behind.

Nests and Burrows: These show us where animals live. Most burrows have a muddy path leading to it with foot tracks at the entrance. Nests can be seen in hedgerows or trees.

Other signs: Many animals leave scratches and other signs behind e.g. fur caught on a fence, feathers that have fallen out of a bird or scratches on the bark of a tree.



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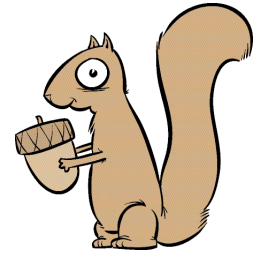
Student Name: _____

Wildlife Tracker

Record your findings

Where are you in the park? _____

Date: _____



What have you found? Fill in your findings in the boxes below. Compare with your classmates, what did they find?

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Droppings | | | | | |
| Footprints | | | | | |
| Signs of Feeding | | | | | |
| Nests or Burrow Holes | | | | | |
| Other Signs | | | | | |

Finding out about animals is about observing and looking for evidence. We can track their movements and find out more about their behaviour.



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Teacher Instruction Activity 2

Animal Tracks and Signs

Wildlife Tracker

The purpose of this activity is to have the students observing and looking for evidence of animals in their park. The first part of the activity worksheet outlines what tracks and signs animals leave behind them. As many of our animals are nocturnal, you might not see any during the day but this activity will show the students that animals are there even if they don't see them. You might be lucky and see an otter and its spraints!

You will need:

- Guide to Mammal Tracks and Signs I.D. Guide (included)
- Magnifying glass (if possible)
- White tray (helps show any materials clearly because of the white background)

What can you do?

1. Pick a good place to look in the park. If there is nothing there, move onto another site.
2. Divide the students into groups and give them one copy per group of the activity worksheets. They must work as a team, looking in the park for evidence of animals whether it is their droppings or a burrow or even the trail of a snail that it makes when moving.
3. When the students have finished writing in their findings, compare it with their classmate findings as what one group might see, another may have not. They can share the experience.
4. Once they have completed this activity congratulate them for becoming Wildlife Trackers.

Note: If you don't know what it is, take a photograph or get the students to draw pictures in their Nature Diaries.